

## 1. Read the text and check the vocabulary.

### Source 1



A woman spinning by hand at home (<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/TextCardP.jpg>)

Since the Middle Ages, making woollen cloth had been Britain's main industry. Most of the work was done by country people in their own homes. Labourers' wives would **spin** and **weave** when they had time to spare. Their husbands helped when there was no work for them on the farm.

Rich clothiers bought the raw wool, employed the

spinners and weavers, and sold the finished cloth. Most of the time, they could sell all the cloth that was made. So they were glad when inventors came up with machines that could spin and weave more quickly.

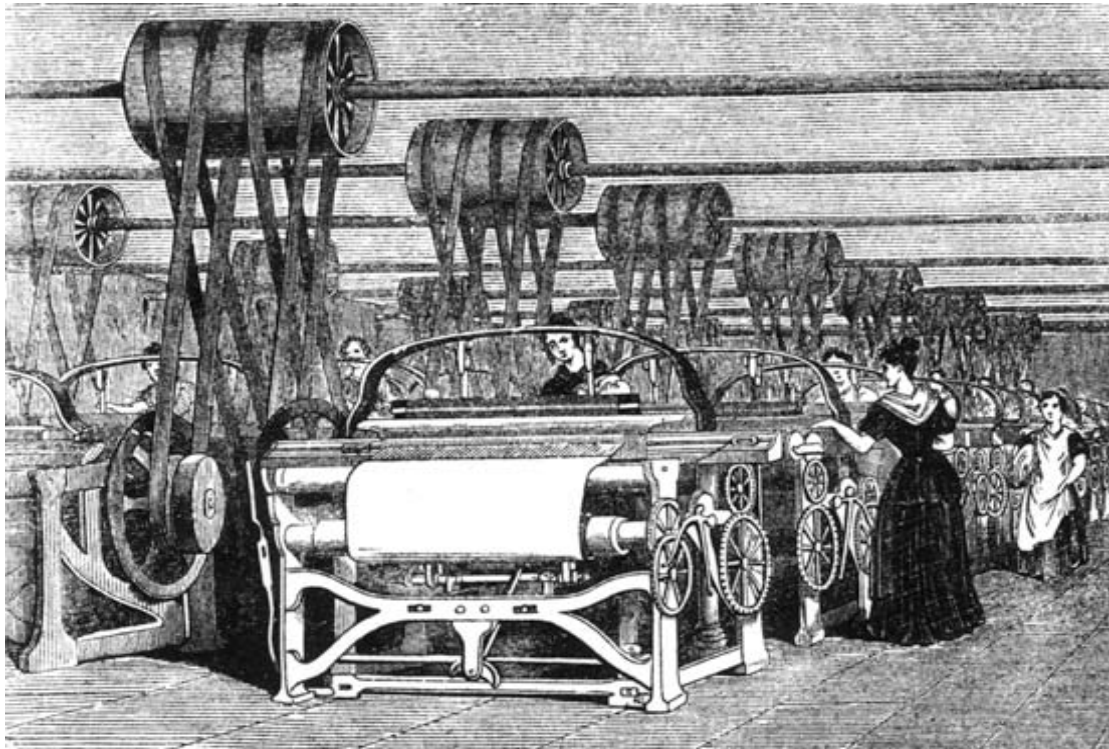
From the mid-eighteenth century, inventors brought about a massive change and wool production was improved by new machines. John Kay's 'Flying Shuttle' made weaving much faster. Then James Hargreaves, with his 'Spinning Jenny', gave the spinner the power to work sixteen **spindles** at once. By and large, though, spinners and weavers still worked in their own homes, making woollen cloth.

Weavers in Britain had made cloth that was part-cotton and part linen for some time. (The **yarn** was not strong enough for pure cotton cloth). Machines such as Richard Arkwright's Water Frame (1769) and Samuel Crompton's Mule (1779) improved cotton manufacture, by producing strong, thin, cotton **thread**. The Water Frame was powered by large amounts of water and so could not be used in a domestic setting. In 1771, Arkwright set up the world's first cotton factory in Derbyshire. The final development in the transformation of the textile industry came with Edmund Cartwright's Power Loom. From the mid-1780s, cotton textile machinery was run increasingly on steam power.

Before long, British cotton cloth was the best in the world. It was also the cheapest, because the spinning was done on machines, in **mills**. The power in the mills at first was water. In the 1790s, though, came the first cotton-mills with machines that were worked by steam. Therefore the cotton industry was the first to become factory-based and from 1800 cotton manufacture became Britain's leading industry.

(Text adapted from ROBSON, Walter: *British History 1066-1900*, Access to History, For the revised Key Stage 3, Oxford University Press 1995, page 205; and SMITH, Nigel: *The Industrial Revolution*, Serie Events and Outcomes, Evans, 2002, page 12)

*Source 2*



<http://cache.eb.com/eb/image?id=92897&rendTypeId=4>

**2. Define the following words that appear in bold in the text. You can use a monolingual dictionary if it is necessary.**

a. mill:

b. spin:

c. spindles:

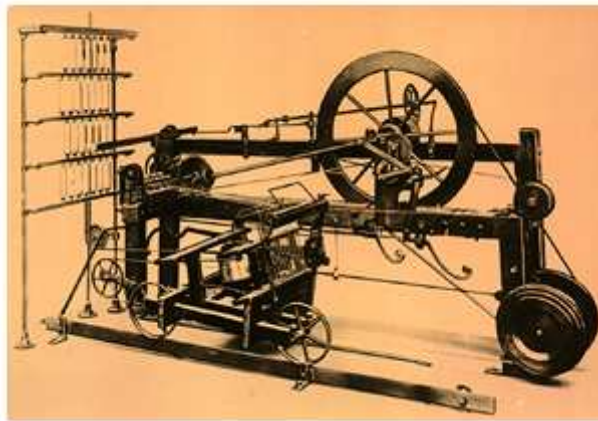
d. thread:

e. weave:

f. yarn:

**3. Read the text again. Answer the following questions, using sentences, by naming the important historical figures.**

- a. Who invented the Spinning Jenny?
- b. Who built the first cotton mill?
- c. Who invented the Spinning Mule?
- d. Who invented a machine that was driven by a water-wheel?
- e. Who contributed first to improve wool production with his/their machines?



Samuel Crompton's Spinning Mule (1779)  
<http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/history/ivh/mule.jpg>

**4. What happened first? Read and sequence these inventions in chronological order.**

1. Edmund Cartwright invented the Power Loom in 1789.
2. Richard Arkwright invented the Water Frame in 1769.
3. John Kay invented the Flying Shuttle in 1733.
4. Samuel Crompton invented the Spinning Mule in 1779.
5. James Hargreaves invented the Spinning Jenny in about 1765.

<i>Date</i>	1733	1765			
<i>Person</i>	John Kay				
<i>Invention</i>	Flying Shuttle				

- 5. Look for photos of the machines on the internet and stick them here. Remember to label them.**

- 6. Are there any similar machines? If so, which ones?**

**7. Work in pairs. Look at Sources 1 and 2 and fill in the grid below. Leave blanks if you do not know or have the information.**

Aspect	Source 1	Source 2
Number of people		
Sex of people		
Workers lived in		
Place of work		
Number of machines		
Power of machines		
Name of the machines		
Size of the machinery		
Lighting		
Production (slow/fast)		
Cloth		
Job		

**8. Imagine you are going to research one of the women from Source 1 or Source 2. Think of eight questions you can ask about her life. One question is given to help you.**

- Do you live in a town or in the country?
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**9. Ask your partner your questions and guess where the woman works.**

**10. List all the jobs you know related to the textile industry.**

**11. Group the jobs according to who did them. Remember that the same job could be done by women or men.**

Women	Men

**12. Imagine you are a young woman living in 1815. Your family had to move from the countryside to a town some years ago. Now all of you are working in a cotton mill. Explain the changes your family has had. The following questions may help you organise your ideas.**

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How long have you been living in town?</li> <li>○ Why did your family move?</li> <li>○ Where did you work and where do you work now?</li> <li>○ What were your jobs? What are your jobs?</li> <li>○ Which machines are there? Which ones do you use?</li> <li>○ Are you using hand-operated machines or steam-powered?</li> <li>○ Are the machines big or small? How many do you use?</li> <li>○ Is it hard to work there? Can you work at your own speed?</li> <li>○ Are there windows for lighting and ventilation?</li> <li>○ Do you like working there? Why? What about your family?</li> </ul> |
|--|

**13. Complete the following passage using the words from the box below.**

home	factory	big	manufacture	industries
domestic	workers	textile	steam	inventors
power	machinery	water	system	nineteenth

The invention of a reliable form of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (steam) and the development of impressive new (2) \_\_\_\_\_ meant that the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ system gradually died out and was replaced by the factory (4) \_\_\_\_\_. From now on, industrial (5) \_\_\_\_\_ would come to the factory instead of working from (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the first (7) \_\_\_\_\_ affected by this change was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ manufacture. Early (9) \_\_\_\_\_ such as Richard Arkwright had developed machines which were too (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to be used in the home and so were set up in factories using (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for power. One such (12) \_\_\_\_\_ was the famous Cromford Mill in Derbyshire. However, later inventions, such as Cartwright's Power Loom, needed steam to be effective. By the early years of the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ century, both cotton and wool (14) \_\_\_\_\_ were becoming dominated by factories using (15) \_\_\_\_\_ for power.

(Text adapted from KELLY, Nigel, REES, Rosemary; SHULTER, Jane: *Britain 1750-1900, Living through History*, page 44)

**14. Linking past and present.**

- a. Do you know someone who has worked as a weaver?
- b. If so, who?
- c. Where did he/she work?
- d. What did he/she do?
- e. Do you know how many looms he/she worked with at the same time?
- f. Are there any similarities or differences when comparing this way of working and the one shown in Source 2? List them.
- g. Compare your answers in groups of four.